



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Interim Chief Executive Officer

August 10, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

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First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

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MOTION TO INSTRUCT THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE SACRAMENTO ADVOCATES TO SUPPORT AB 50 (MULLIN) (ITEM NO. 49-F, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF AUGUST 11, 2015)

Item No. 49-F on the August 11, 2015 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Kuehl to instruct the Interim Chief Executive Officer and the Sacramento advocates to support AB 50 (Mullin), which would require the State Department of Health Care Services to develop a plan to provide evidence-based home visitation program services to Medi-Cal eligible participants.

Background

Research has shown that evidence-based home visitation programs, in which a nurse regularly visits with at-risk pregnant or parenting mothers in the home, can greatly improve the health outcomes and overall well-being of children, particularly those in poverty. The nurses provide parents with practical guidelines and information on child-rearing, emotional support, and connections to resources with the objective to increase family self-sufficiency and improve maternal and child health.

California receives Federally-funded competitive grants that partially fund a variety of home visiting programs administered by local jurisdictions throughout the State. Local funds may be used to leverage additional Federal Medicaid dollars. Currently, California does not appropriate State General Funds to draw down Federal Medicaid funding for home visiting programs.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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The Department of Public Health (DPH) administers two Federal grant-funded home visiting programs, the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program and Healthy Families America. The NFP program is offered through the County's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health program and the Los Angeles Unified School District. The NFP program is an evidence-based home visiting model which uses specially trained public health nurses to support and follow families from pregnancy through the critical first two years of the child's life. Services are provided for free, on a voluntary basis, for women and youth who are pregnant for the first time and living in poverty. The aim of the NFP program is to improve pregnancy outcomes, parental skills, child health, and maternal life-course development. DPH reports approximately 1,075 clients participate annually in the NFP; however, the program capacity is tied directly to the limited amount of available funding. The Healthy Families America program provides sub-contracted home visitation services in the Antelope Valley, an area typically difficult to serve due to its remote location.

AB 50 (Mullin)

AB 50 (Mullin), which as amended on May 21, 2015, would require the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to develop a plan to offer and provide free, voluntary evidence-based home visitation programs to Medi-Cal eligible participants, including pregnant women, expectant fathers, and parents and caregivers of children from prenatal to five years of age.

This measure would require DHCS to consider all of the following in developing the plan: 1) establish Medi-Cal coverage for evidence-based home visiting programs; 2) create incentives for Medi-Cal providers to offer these services; 3) identify alternative funding sources other than the State General Fund, including Federal, local, or private funds to draw down Federal Medicaid matching funds; and 4) identify established evidenced-based programs that have proven to improve health outcomes and cost savings to the health care system. AB 50 would require DHCS to develop the plan in consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, representatives from Medi-Cal managed care plans, public and private hospitals, evidence-based home visiting programs, and local governments by January 1, 2017.

AB 50 is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2015.

AB 50 is supported by the California Nurses Association; Children Now; First 5 California; March of Dimes California Chapter; Parents as Teachers; and the Boards of Supervisors of Monterey County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, and Solano County. This measure is opposed by the California Right to Life Committee.

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Conclusion

The Department of Public Health supports AB 50 and its intent to pursue Federal Medicaid funds to expand the NFP and other evidence-based home visitation programs proven to help prevent poor birth outcomes, improve infant health and safety, and influence families to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. According to DPH, approximately 6,000 Medi-Cal eligible women give birth for the first-time each year in Los Angeles County. AB 50 would expand access to home visitation programs for these women and their infants and to Medi-Cal eligible expectant fathers and families with young children

There is no existing Board-approved policy related to evidence-based home visitation programs. Therefore, **support for AB 50 is a matter for Board policy determination.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
VE:TOF:gl

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel